Import of equipment by the oil India Limited

2739. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil India Limited a public sector undertaking, is pleading before Government for permission to import equipment as it finds indigenous equipment to be sub-standard; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Oil India Ltd., seeks Government's permission from time to time to import equipment in the following circumstances:

(i) The equipment is not manufactured indigenously.

(ii) The indigenous offers do not meet the technical specifications indicated in the tender.

(iii) The delevery period does not match OIL's immediate requirements.

(iv) The price quoted by the Indigenous partees is in excess of the limits laid down under the price preference scheme of the Government.

(b) Government decides each case on merit.

Two Tier Tariff System for Power Supply

2740. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government was guided by World Bank conditionalities for imposing a two tier triff system for power supply from Central Power Stations;

(b) if so, whether the NTPC's insistance for 57 per cent plant load factor instead of 63 per cent P.L.F., is also on the same basis; and

(c) if so, whether Government will agree to such terms which are not favourable for State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) The Agreement signed with the World Bank in respect of various projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation do not stipulate any condition for two-tier tariff system to be adopted for supply of power from Central Power Stations.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Death of a young Army Major by electrocution

2741. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) who are the officers of the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking who are responsible for the death of a young Major at the Palam on July 15, 1985 by their negligence of duty;

(b) what action has been taken against those who were found responsible for that accident, give details; and

(c) what compensation was given to the relatives of the deceased army Major?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) One Inspector incharge of street lighting maintenance in the Zone *prima-facie* found to be responsible for the accident has been placed under suspension. All cases of such accidents which occurred in 1985 are being enquired into by a high power committee apponited by Delhi Administration.

(c) Rupees one lakh has been paid to the bereaved family as *ex-gratia* payment.

Experiments to tap power from coal

2742. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experiments have been carried out in India and in other countries to tap power directly from Coal through magnetohydrodynamic Generation method; and

(b) what are the potentialities in this method and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An experimental Magneto-hydrodynamic (MHD) plant of 5 MW (thermal) input capacity has been set up at Tiruchirapalli under a programme sponsored by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. MHD power was generated recently under trial conditions. Further experiments are in progress at this plant in order to generate scientific, technical and operational data. The potentialities are that higher overall conversion efficiencies compared to conventional plants may be achieved in plants combining MHD and conventional processes.

Royalty on coal

2743. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the 17th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council held at Patna on 24th September, 1985, the representatives of the State Government of West Bengal demanded for the fixation of royalty rates for coal at 15 per cent *ad valorem;* and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government on their demand?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rate of royalty on coal was last revised with effect from 13-2-1981. To consider the question of further revision of royalty rate on coal, a Study Group was constituted in November, 1984. The study Group has submitted its report but no decision has yet been taken by the Government of India.

High Court judgement in Sanskrit

2744. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *ALIAS* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have recently received consent from the Central Government to pronounce the judgement of its High Court in a language other than English and Hindi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether one of the High Court Judges in Lucknow pronounced his judgement recently in Sanskrit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The position is being ascertained from the Registry of the High Court of Allahabad.

Public sector industries in Arunachal Pradesh

2745. SHRIMATI OMEM MOYONG DEORI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many public sector enterprises have been located so far in areas declared to be backward districts in the country particularly in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) what is the percentage of persons belonging to S. C. and S. T. employed in each of the major categories of posts; and

(c) what steps are being taken to identify and train candidates from such weaker sections alongwith the planning of the project so that real benefit can be derived in the backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The details are being collected and a statement will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) The percentage of the persons belonging to SC and ST employed in each of the major categories of posts in the Public Enterprises is available in Section 2 of Chapter 23, Page 329 of the Public Enterprises Survey 1983-84 Volume I, placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 1986.

(c) Instruction of Government already exist for special pre-entry training of ST/